1	2	3	4
Haryana		134	48
Madhya Pradesh	1150	1575	3409
Maharashtra	153	55	343
Orissa	3356	2047	833
Rajasthan	84	117	90
Tamilnadu	48	3647	U4S
Uttar Pradesh .	5519	1358	944
TOTAL	13,362	16,385	6,862

*Figures being verified with the State Government.

Increase in the Prices of Indigenous Newsprint

M. PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAD-CASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the newspapers are facing acute shortage of newsprint ;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to remove the shortage of newsprint ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of indigenous newsprint have been increased a number of times during the last two years ;

(d) what are the reasons for increase in prices of indigenous news-print frequently; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that newspapers have complained against the frequent increase in the price of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) To avoid any shortage, mills have been asked to ensure maximum production and steps have been taken for import of newsprint to bring the gap between indigenous production and consumption. Imported newsprint was released from buffer stock to tide over temporary shortage in the supply of indigenous newsprint.

(c) Indigenous newsprint prices were revised in January/February, 1988 and May/June, 1989.

(d) There has been no frequent increases. Central Goverment do not exercise any statutory control on the prices of news print. The indigenous newsprint mills have reportedly revised their prices upward in May-June, 1989 on account of increase in costs of production and to maintain their financial viability..

(e) Yes, sir.

415. *[Transferred to the 26th July, 1989.]* Central Assistance to Karnataka under the Special Foodgrains Production Programme 416 SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-SWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Central assistance given to Karnataka during